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the *Nonea* grew also the stronger for its struggle, the battle would still be about equal, until an "if" in the shape of some such an accident as I have above illustrated should come in to the advantage of the victor.

It seems to me that there is another side to the subject of the "survival of the fittest" that we seldom have presented to our view.

THOMAS MEEHAN.

Note on *Dicentra*.—I find that in my garden the flowers of *Dicentra cucullaria* are systematically punctured by humble-bees; I have watched them in the process. Has this been noticed when the plants are growing wild? It sadly interferes with the very neat mechanism for cross-fertilization.

Providence, May 1, 1884.

W. WHITMAN BAILEY.

Abnormal *Hepaticas*.—The blossoming of *Anemone Hepatica* in Ross Park, near this city, this spring, is very varied and profuse. Among the myriads of plants, I have noticed the following abnormalities:

(1) Dozens of plants have very deep blue sepals with a white or light blue margin. All of these are absolutely stamenless, though pollen was found upon the stigmas, whither it must have been brought by insects.

(2) Numbers of flowers were pure white, and all of these had nine sepals and bore—as far as the flowers were concerned—an exact resemblance to *A. nemorosa*. One *monosepalous* flower was found with six lobes, one of which was cleft to its centre, thus forming, with a stameniferous extra sepal, nearly an 8-sepaled specimen.

Binghampton, N. Y.

C. F. MILLSPAUGH.

Tribute of Respect to Dr. Engelmann.—The following preamble and resolutions, indicative of the appreciation of the high scientific and personal character of the late Dr. George Engelmann, were unanimously adopted by the Botanical Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, April 14th, 1884,

WHEREAS, the Botanical Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has heard with profound regret of the death of Dr. George Engelmann; therefore

Resolved: We regard this as a calamity to Botanical Science and to those who were in any way associated with him in its study; also

Resolved: That in his life he furnished an example of industry in his profession, of devotion to science, of thoroughness in investigation, and of success in labor which will always command our admiration and respect; and be it further

Resolved: That by his readiness to aid all who were seekers after the truths of nature, by the conscientious answers to the botanical questions referred to him, no less than by his goodness as a man, we believe he has attached many to the science in whose service he died.

Resolved: That as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, these resolutions be entered upon the minutes of the Section, a copy be transmitted to his family, and also a copy of them

be furnished to the BULLETIN OF THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB and to the *Botanical Gazette*, with the request that they be published therein.

JOS. T. ROTHROCK.
THOMAS MEEHAN.
JOHN H. REDFIELD.

Botanical Notes.

Gender of Names of Varieties.—Among other subordinate questions in Natural-history nomenclature, it has been asked whether names of varieties, like those of species, should conform in gender to the genus, or whether they may not as well conform to the word *varietas* and so always be feminine.

Linnaeus introduced the current practice of numbering varieties by the letters of the Greek alphabet, α , β , γ , etc. But to some varieties, evidently to the more important, he gave names. These names, when adjectives, were always (so far as we know) made to agree in gender with the generic name: ex. gr.—

Viburnum Opulus, β *roseum*.

Asparagus officinalis, α *maritimus*, β *atilis*.

Mesembryanthemum ringens, α *caninum*, β *felinum*.

In our days, named varieties play a more and more important part, and all botanists, as a rule, appear to have followed the Linnæan model, with now and then a divergence which is readily explained, and which may be said to be accidental, such as

Ripogonum album, var. *leptostachya*, Benth.

This is as one writes "forma *albiflora*" or "var. *albiflora*," a white-flowered form or variety. But that this is not the pattern or the true construction of varietal names appears at once on reference to ordinary cases. Thus, for example, in "*Nasturtium amphibium*, α *indivisum*, DC. Syst.," it is not an undivided variety of the species that is meant, but a name which stands in the same grammatical relation to *Nasturtium* that *amphibium* does, and to write *N. amphibium*, α *indivisa*, is obviously wrong. We should say that it makes no difference whether the word variety, or its abbreviation *var.* is expressed or understood. When the conditions of the case seem to call for it, we should write "*Nasturtium*, spec. *amphibium*," and just as L. C. Richard (a good model), in Michaux's Flora writes,

Viburnum dentatum, var. α *glabellum*, β *semitomentosum*.

Rhus Toxicodendron, var. α *vulgare*, β *quercifolium*.

The editor of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* (March 22, p. 373), having put this kind of question to Mr. Alphonse De Candolle (whom we should consider the highest living authority upon nomenclatural matters), understands him to reply that "the insertion of the abbreviation *var.* for *varietas*, which is feminine, demands a feminine termination; but if the word *var.* be omitted, then the rule would be for the variety to follow the specific name;" meaning probably the generic name, for in one of the examples given, "*Thymus Serpyllum*, β *montanus*," it does not follow the specific.

From this point of view, viz., that where the nature of the group (in this case, variety) is expressed the adjective name should be fem-